

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the above-identified application are respectfully requested. Claims 1-23 are currently pending. Claims 18-23 are new.

Claims 1-17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Brown et al. (U.S. Patent Number 6,278,448) and in further view of Barlow et al. (U.S. Patent Number 6,275,935). Prior to discussing this ground of rejection in detail, a brief summary of a method for preventing inadvertent data entry into a web page according to exemplary embodiments of the present invention is provided below to highlight some of the advantageous characteristics thereof.

According to exemplary embodiments of the present invention, output data may include Cascading Style Sheets as part of a web page, which also includes source code that may be executed by a browser. A "membrane" style may be defined in the output data at a z-index higher than the other layers of the web page. In addition, the membrane is initially hidden and can be positioned and sized such that it covers the entire web page to be displayed by the browser. When the user clicks a submit button, or the like, to initiate a transaction with the vendor application software via the web page, a submitIt function is called. The submitIt function sends the data as input data to the web server and calls a showMembrane function. The showMembrane function changes the membrane style to visible, and the lower layers of a page then become inaccessible due to the higher z-index and visibility attribute of the web page division (layer) associated with the "membrane" style. This has the effect of rendering the lower layers, e.g., those containing data entry fields and the submit button, inaccessible to the user.

The Brown patent describes a method of creating a composite desktop built by a user from Web content retrieved from one or more Web sites. The Barlow patent describes a system for preventing unauthorized modification of interactive objects having one or more object states by an object designer. The Official Action correctly states that "Brown fails to specifically disclose rendering the data input screen inaccessible to prevent user input." However, Applicant respectfully disagrees that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the Applicant's invention to have combined the teachings of Brown with the teachings of Barlow, in any manner which would have motivated one of ordinary skill in the art to have arrived at Applicant's claimed combinations for at least the reasons stated below.

Initially, Applicant respectfully submits that even assuming (strictly arguendo) that there was some motivation to combine Brown with the Barlow, the resulting combination would not have enabled one of ordinary skill in the art to arrive at Applicant's claim 1 combination. Specifically, the combination of Brown with Barlow would, at best, result in some object of the desktop being locked prior to the desktop of Brown being released for use. This is not the same as "executing said executable script in response to user input, wherein said executable script operates within said client device to render said data input screen inaccessible to prevent subsequent user input", as described, among other things, in Applicant's claim 1 combination. Only Applicant's specification teaches or suggests this feature in combination with the other factors of Applicant's claim 1 combination.

Additionally, it is respectfully submitted that there would have been no motivation to combine Brown and Barlow. In the Official Action it is stated that:

"It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention to have combined Brown's method with Barlow's method, since it would have allowed a user to restrict access to data (Barlow: column2, lines 8-10)."

It is respectfully submitted, however, that there is no basis found in either Brown or Barlow for the proposed motivation to combine because neither Brown nor Barlow suggest that there would be any desirability or need for allowing a user to restrict access to data in the system of Brown.

Similar comments apply to independent claims 5, 10 and 15, as well as dependent claims 2-4, 6-9, 11-14 and 16-17.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-17 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Brown and in further view of Barlow are respectfully requested.

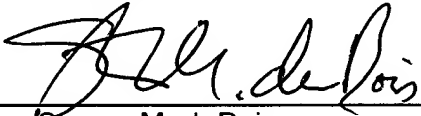
New claims 18-23 have been added to provide additional claim coverage for the present invention. More specifically, claim 18 describes a method for preventing data entry to a web page comprising the steps of: associating an executable script with the web page; permitting a first data input to the web page; executing, in response to the first data input, the executable script; and preventing data entry to at least a portion of the web page after execution of the script. Claim 19 recites that the step of preventing further comprises the step of: associating the executable script with a predetermined z-number for the web page; and rendering inaccessible those data entry elements associated with the web page that have a z-number lower

than the predetermined z-number. While Brown does describe having different z-numbers for items on the desktop, Brown does not teach or suggest utilizing z-numbers to render data entry of certain elements associated with a web page inaccessible. It is respectfully submitted that the newly submitted claims are also patentably distinguishable from the documents of record.

All of the objections and rejections raised in the Office Action having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is earnestly solicited. Should the Examiner have any questions regarding this response or the application in general, he is invited to contact the undersigned at (540) 361-1863.

Respectfully submitted,

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